

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus

comprising:

a system bus;

a CPU connected to said system bus;

a memory connected to said system bus;

a data transmission/reception unit transmitting and receiving data to and from a

network;

an encoding/decoding unit encoding and decoding data;

an external input/output interface controller controlling an input/output interface

with an external unit;

an input/output switching unit selectively forming a data path among said data

transmission/reception unit, said encoding/decoding unit, and said external input/output

interface controller; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:~~

a control unit controlling said input/output switching unit to selectively form the data path connecting said data transmission/reception unit to said encoding/decoding

unit and the data path connecting said data transmission/reception unit to said external input/output interface controller in accordance with a communication system.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control unit ~~is also capable of controlling~~ controls said input/output switching unit to form the data path connecting said external input/output interface controller to said encoding/decoding unit.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control unit controls said input/output switching unit in accordance with an input operation of a user.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control unit is implemented by said external input/output interface controller.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus  
comprising:

a system bus;

a CPU connected to said system bus;

a memory connected to said system bus;

a data transmission/reception unit transmitting and receiving data to and from a  
network;

an encoding/decoding unit encoding and decoding data;

an external input/output interface controller controlling an input/output interface  
with an external unit;

an input/output switching unit selectively forming a data path among said external  
input/output interface controller, said system bus, said data transmission/reception unit,  
and said encoding/decoding unit; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:~~

a control unit controlling said input/output switching unit to selectively form the data path connecting said external input/output interface controller to said system bus and the data path connecting said external input/output interface controller to said data transmission/reception unit in accordance with a communication system.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said control unit ~~is also capable of controlling~~ controls said input/output switching unit so as to form the data path connecting said external input/output interface controller to said encoding/decoding unit.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus  
comprising:

a system bus;

a CPU connected to said system bus;

a memory connected to said system bus;  
a data transmission/reception unit transmitting and receiving data to and from a  
network;  
a first external input/output interface controller controlling a first external  
input/output interface with an external unit;  
a second external input/output interface controller controlling a second external  
input/output interface with the external unit;  
an input/output switching unit selectively forming a data path among said first  
external input/output interface, said second external input/output interface, said system  
bus, and said data transmission/reception unit; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:~~

a control unit controlling said input/output switching unit to simultaneously form  
the data path connecting said first external input/output interface to the system bus and  
the data path connecting said second external input/output interface to said data  
transmission/reception unit.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus  
comprising:

a system bus;  
a CPU connected to said system bus;  
a memory connected to said system bus;

a data transmission/reception unit transmitting and receiving data to and from a network;

a voice encoding/decoding unit encoding and decoding voice data;

an image encoding/decoding unit encoding and decoding image data;

a voice/image multiplexing/demultiplexing unit conducting voice and image multiplexing and demultiplexing to the voice data and the image data;

an external input/output interface controller controlling an input/output interface with an external unit;

an input/output switching unit selectively forming a data path among said data transmission/reception unit, said voice encoding/decoding unit, said image encoding/decoding unit, said voice/image multiplexing/ demultiplexing unit, and said external input/output interface controller; and

~~The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:~~

a control unit controlling said input/output switching unit to simultaneously form the data path connecting said data transmission/reception unit to a voice and image multiplexing data line of said voice/image multiplexing/demultiplexing unit, the data path connecting a voice data line of said voice/image multiplexing/demultiplexing unit to said voice encoding/decoding unit, and the data path connecting an image data line of said voice/image multiplexing/demultiplexing unit to said image encoding/decoding unit.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said control unit ~~is capable of controlling~~ controls said input/output switching unit to sever the data path connecting the voice data line of said voice/image

multiplexing/demultiplexing unit to said voice encoding/decoding unit and to form the data path connecting the voice data line of said voice/image multiplexing/demultiplexing unit to said external input/output interface controller.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said control unit ~~is capable of controlling~~ controls said input/output switching unit to sever the data path connecting the image data line of said voice/image multiplexing/demultiplexing unit to said image encoding/decoding unit and to form the data path connecting the image data line of said voice/image multiplexing/demultiplexing unit to said external input/output interface controller.

15 - 27. (Canceled)